

THE
VOTES
AND
ORDERS

Of the honourable House of
COMMONS,

Passed February 25, and 26. 1662.

*Upon reading His MAJESTIES Gracious
DECLARATION and SPEECH:*

Together with their

REASONS
AND
ADDRESSE,

Humbly presented to His Majesty
(The whole House present)

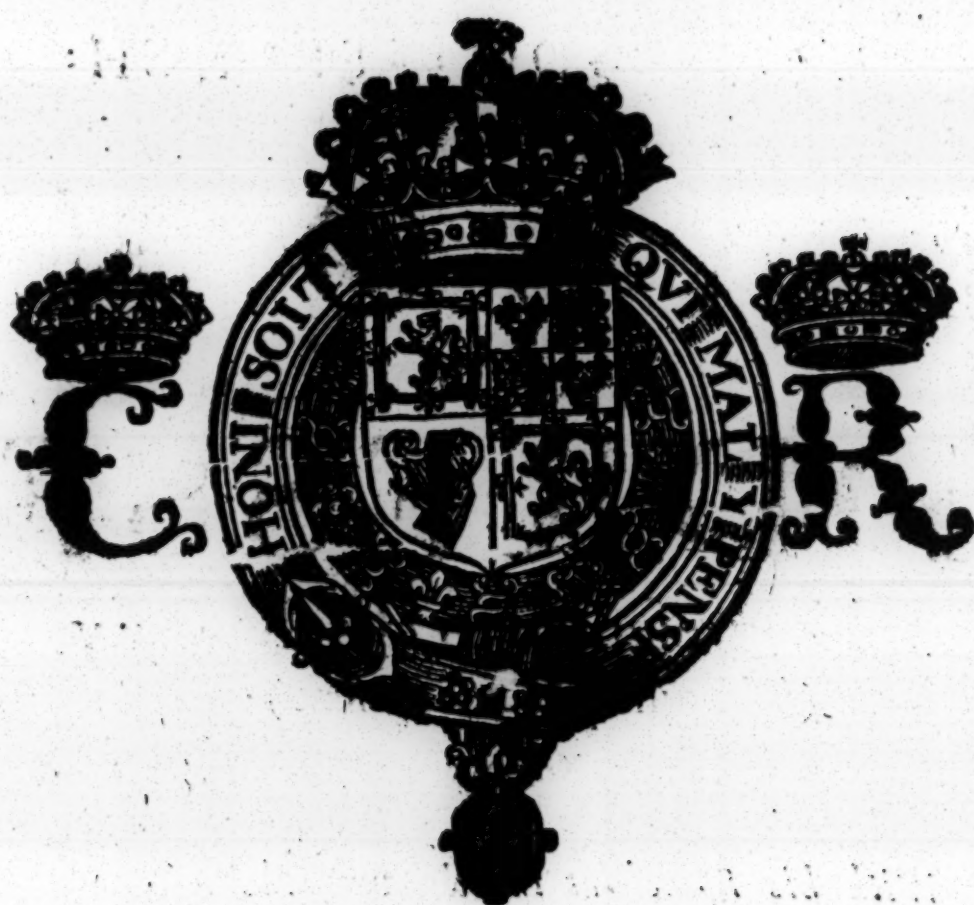
By their Speaker Sir *Edward Turner*, Knight and Baronet, on *Saturday, Feb. 28.*
in the Banqueting-house at *Whitehall*.

With his Speech at the delivery thereof;

And his report of the Substance of His
Majesties gracious Answer thereunto.



EDINBURGH,
Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings
most Excellent Majesty, 1663.





T H E
V O T E S
A N D
O R D E R S
O F T H E

Honourable House of COMMONS, passed
Feb. 25, and 26. 1662. upon reading His
Majesties gracious Declaration and Speech.

THe honourable House of COMMONS having appointed
Wednesday the 25. of this moneth, for the reading His Ma-
jesties gracious Declaration of the six and twentieth of *December*
last, and His Speech made at the opening of this Session; and the
same being then read and taken into mature debate and considera-
tion, the House proceeded to pass these Votes and Orders fol-
lowing, *viz.*

Mercurii 25. Feb. 15. Car. R.

Upon consideration had by the House, of the Kings
Majesties Declaration and Speech,

Resolved upon the question, *nemine contradicente,*

That the humble thanks of this House be
returned to the Kings Majesty, for his
constancy in the observation of the Act of
Indemnity.

Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente,*

That the humble thanks of this House be re-
turned to the Kings Majesty for his profession
against introducing a Government by a mili-
tary Power.



Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente,*

That the humble thanks of this House be returned to His Majesty for His gracious invitation to this House to prepare some Laws against the growth and progress of Popery.

Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente,*

That the humble thanks of this House be returned to His Majesty, for His resolution to maintain the Act of Uniformity.

Resolved, &c. *nemine contradicente,*

That the humble thanks of this House be returned to His Majesty for His gracious recommendations to this House, to prepare Laws against licentiousness and impiety, and also to provide sumptuary Laws, and Laws for the advance of Trade, and for His Majesties gracious expressions to retrench the charge and expences in His own Family.

Resolved, &c.

That it be presented to the Kings Majesty, as the humble advice of this House, That no Indulgence be granted to the Dissenters from the Act of Uniformity.

Ordered,

That a Committee be appointed to collect and bring in the Reasons of this House for this Vote upon the present Debate, to be presented to His Majesty; and that the nominating of the Committee be adjourned till to morrow morning.

Fovis,

70vis 26. Feb. 15. Car. R.

Resolved, &c.

That in the close of the Reasons to be presented to His Majesty for the vote of Advice, it be also added, That this House will assist His Majesty with their lives and fortunes, and That the Committee appointed to bring in the Reasons do pen an Address for that purpose to His Majesty.

And the Committee appointed to bring in the Reasons and Address before directed, having met and agreed the same, Sir *Henenge Finch*, His Majesties Solicitor General, made report thereof to the House on Friday the twenty seventh of this moneth, and the same being twice read, and some small amendments and additions made thereto, and the Reasons and Address so agreed, ordered to be fair written.

A Messlage was sent to His Majesty by Sir *William Compton* and others of His Majesties Privy Council, Members of the House, to desire leave of His Majesty, that the House might wait on Him at such time and place as His Majesty should appoint.

And His Majesty being attended, Sir *William Compton* on Saturday made report, That His Majesty did most graciously receive the Messlage, as He did all things that came from that House, and to testifie He did so, had appointed the shortest time He could to be attended, which was this present Saturday at three of the clock in the afternoon, in the Banqueting house at *Whitehall*: and the House thereupon adjourning till two of the clock in the afternoon; and being then met again, Mr. Speaker with the whole House went from thence to *Whitehall* to attend His Majesty, and Mr. Speaker delivered himself in manner following.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

THe Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses of the Commons House of Parliament, did with great joy receive Your Majesties most Gracious Speech, at the opening this Session of Parliament: And being thereby invited to consider of Your Declaration of the Twenty sixth of December last; they have with all Sobriety, Duty, and Affection, examined the grounds thereof; and do by me present unto Your Majesty, their most hearty Thanks for the same, and humble Advice thereupon; both which, I do beseech Your Majesty that You will vouchsafe me to deliver in their own words.

May it please Your most Excellent Majesty,

WE your Majesties most Dutifull and Loyal Subjects, the Knights Citizens and Burgeses of the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled, having with all Fidelity and Obedience considered of the several Matters comprised in Your Majesties late Gracious Declaration of the Twenty six of December last, and Your most Gracious Speech at the beginning of this present Session,

Do, in the first place for our selves, and in the names of all the Commons of England, render to Your Sacred Majesty, the Tribute of our most hearty Thanks, for that infinite Grace and Goodness, wherewith Your Majesty hath been pleased to publish Your Royal Intentions of adhering to Your Act of Indemnity and Oblivion, by a Constant and Religious Observance of it. And our hearts are further enlarged in these returns of Thanksgivings, when we consider Your Majesties most Princely and Heroick Professions of relying upon the Affections of Your People, and abhorring all sort of Military and Arbitrary Rule. But above all, We can never enough remember, to the Honour of Your Majesties Piety, and our own unspeakable comfort, those solemn and most endearing Invitations of us Your Majesties Subjects, to prepare Laws to be presented to Your Majesty, against the growth and increase of Popery; and withall, provide more Laws against Licentiousness and Impiety; at the same time declaring Your own Resolutions for maintaining the Act of Uniformity. And it becomes us alwayes to acknowledge and admire Your Majesties Wisdom in this Your Declaration, whereby Your Majesty is pleased to resolve, not only by Sumptuary Laws, but by Your own Royal Example of Frugality, to restrain that excess in mens Expences, which is grown so general and so exorbitant; and to direct our endeavours to find out fit and proper Laws for advancement of Trade and Commerce.

After all this we most humbly beseech Your Majesty to believe, That it is with extream unwillingness and reluctancy of heart, that we are brought to differ from any thing which Your Majesty hath thought fit to propose; And though we do no way doubt, but that the unreasonable Distempers of mens spirits, and the many Mutinies and Conspiracies which were carried on, during the late
Intervals

Intervals of Parliament, did reasonably incline Your Majesty to endeavour by Your Declaration to give some allay to those ill humours, till the Parliament Assembled; and the hopes of Indulgence, if the Parliament should consent to it; especially seeing the pretenders to this Indulgence, did seem to make some titles to it, by vertue of Your Majesties Declaration from *Breda*. Nevertheless, we Your Majesties most Dutifull and Loyal Subjects, who are now returned to serve in Parliament, from those several parts and places of Your Kingdom, for which we were chosen; Do humbly offer to Your Majesties great Wisdom, That it is in no sort advisable that there be any Indulgence to such persons who presume to dissent from the Act of Uniformity, and the Religion established,

For these Reasons,

VWE have considered the nature of Your Majesties Declaration from *Breda*, and are humbly of opinion, That Your Majesty ought not to be pressed with it any further;

Because it is not a Promise in it self, but only a Gracious Declaration of Your Majesties Intentions, to do what in You lay, and what a Parliament should advise Your Majesty to do; and no such Advice was ever given, or thought fit to be offered; nor could it be otherwise understood, because there were Laws of Uniformity then in being, which could not be dispensed with, but by Act of Parliament.

They who do pretend a Right to that supposed Promise, put the Right into the hands of their Representatives, whom they chose to serve for them in this Parliament, who have passed; and Your Majesty consented to the Act of Uniformity. If any shall presume to say, that a right to the benefit of this Declaration doth still remain after this Act Passed,

It tends to dissolve the very Bonds of Government, and to suppose a disability in Your Majesty and the Houses of Parliament, to make a Law contrary to any part of Your Majesties Declaration, though both Houses should advise Your Majesty to it.

We have also considered the nature of the Indulgence Proposed, with reference to those Consequences, which must necessarily attend it.

It will establish Schism by a Law, and make the whole Government of the Church Precarious, and the Censures of it of no Moment or Consideration at all.

It will no way become the Gravity or Wisdom of a Parliament, to pass a Law at one Session for Uniformity, and at the next Session (the reasons of Uniformity continuing still the same) to pass another Law to frustrate or weaken the execution of it.

It will expose Your Majesty to the rest less Importunity of every Sect or Opinion, and of every single person also, who shall presume to dissent from the Church of *England*.

It will be a cause of increasing Sects and Sectaries, whose numbers,

bers will weaken the true Protestant Profession so far, that it will at least be difficult for it, to defend it self against them: And, which is yet further considerable, those numbers, which by being troublesome to the Government, find they can arrive to an Indulgence, will, as their numbers increase, be yet more troublesome, that so at length they may arrive to a general Toleration, which Your Majesty hath declared against; and in time, some prevalent Sect, will at last contend for an establishment; which, for ought can be foreseen, may end in Popery.

It is a thing altogether without Precedent, and will take away all means of convicting Recusants, and be inconsistent with the method and proceedings of the Laws of *England*.

Lastly, It is humbly conceived, that the Indulgence proposed will be so far from tending to the Peace of the Kingdom, that it is rather likely to occasion great disturbance. And on the contrary, That the asserting of the Laws, and the Religion establishd, according to the Act of Uniformity, is the most probable means to produce a settled Peace and Obedience throughout Your Kingdom: Because the variety of Professions in Religion, when openly indulged doth directly distinguish men into parties, and withall gives them opportunity to count their numbers; which, considering the animosities, that out of a Religious Pride will be kept on foot by the several Factions, doth tend directly and inevitably to open disturbance. Nor can Your Majesty have any Security, that the Doctrine or Worship of the several Factions, which are all governed by a several rule, shall be consistent with the Peace of Your Kingdom.

And if any persons shall presume to disturb the Peace of the Kingdom, We do in all humility declare, that we will forever, and in all Occasions, be ready with our utmost endeavour and assistance, to adhere to, and serve Your Majesty according to our bounden Duty and Allegiance.

The Speakers Report of the Substance of His
Majesties Gracious Answer.

That His Majesty gave them hearty Thanks for their many Thanks; That never any King was so happy in a House of Commons, as He in this; That the Paper and Reasons were long, and therefore He would take time to consider of them, and send them a Message; That they could never differ but in Judgment, and that must be, when he did not rightly express Himself; or they did not rightly understand Him; but their Interest was so far linkt together, that they could never disagree.

Re-printed at *Edinburgh*, by *Evan Tyler*, Printer
to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1663.